

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multi-channel management apparatus that is applied to a multi-channel input system for making cordless connection between a plurality of terminals and a plurality of input apparatuses corresponding to these terminals based on a multi-channel system, the multi-channel management apparatus comprising:

a management unit which manages a setting status of each channel in the multi-channel input system; and

10 a notification unit which notifies the setting status to a particular one of the terminals according to a request from the particular terminal.

2. The multi-channel management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an interference channel candidate extraction unit which selects a channel as a candidate interference channel having a possibility of the occurrence of interference at the time of updating a set channel, and notifies the interference channel to a terminal, 15 when this channel other than the set channel has a data reception during a period while the set channel set at the terminal has no data reception.

3. A multi-channel management method that is applied to a multi-channel input system for making cordless connection between a plurality of terminals and a plurality of input apparatuses corresponding to these terminals based on a multi-channel system, the multi-channel management method comprising:

managing a setting status of each channel in the multi-channel input system; and

10 notifying the setting status to a particular one of the terminals according to a request from the particular terminal.

4. A computer program containing instructions which when executed on a computer causes the computer to function as:

15 a management unit which manages a setting status of each channel in a multi-channel input system for making cordless connection between a plurality of terminals and a plurality of input apparatuses corresponding to these terminals based on a multi-channel system; and

20 a notification unit which notifies the setting status to a particular one of the terminals according to a request from the particular terminal.

5. A multi-channel terminal that is in cordless connection to an input apparatus by utilizing a set channel that has been set in advance out of a plurality of channels based on a multi-channel system, the multi-channel terminal

5 comprising:

a checking unit which checks presence or absence of a data reception in a channel other than a set channel during a period while the set channel has no data reception; and

an interference channel candidate extraction unit
10 which selects a channel as a candidate interference channel having a possibility of the occurrence of interference at the time of updating the set channel, when the checking unit has detected a data reception.

15 6. The multi-channel terminal according to claim 5, further comprising a notification unit which notifies the candidate interference channel to a user.

7. The multi-channel terminal according to claim 6,
20 wherein the notification unit notifies a setting status of each channel of the multi-channel system, in addition to the interference channel.

8. The multi-channel terminal according to claim 5,
further comprising an interruption processing unit which
interrupts a processing to execute a processing of received
data, when a set channel has received data while the checking
5 unit is checking.

9. The multi-channel terminal according to claim 5,
wherein the checking unit destroys data that has been
received during the checking.

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10. A multi-channel interference management method
applied to a multi-channel terminal that is in cordless
connection to an input apparatus by utilizing a set channel
that has been set in advance out of a plurality of channels
15 based on a multi-channel system, the multi-channel
interference management method comprising:

checking presence or absence of a data reception in
a channel other than a set channel during a period while
the set channel has no data reception; and

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when it is decided in the checking process that there
is data reception, selecting a channel as a candidate
interference channel having a possibility of the occurrence
of interference at the time of updating the set channel.

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11. A computer program containing instructions which when executed on a computer causes the computer to function as:

a checking unit which checks presence or absence of a data reception in a channel other than a set channel during a period while the set channel set in advance out of a plurality of channels has no data reception, at a multi-channel terminal that is utilized for making cordless connection to an input apparatus based on a multi-channel system; and

an interference channel candidate extraction unit which selects a channel as a candidate interference channel having a possibility of the occurrence of interference at the time of updating the set channel, when the checking unit has detected a data reception.

12. A multi-channel setting apparatus that is applied to a multi-channel input system for making cordless connection between a plurality of terminals and a plurality of input apparatuses corresponding to these terminals based on a multi-channel system, the multi-channel setting apparatus comprising:

a management unit which manages a setting status of each channel in the multi-channel input system; and

a setting unit which finds a free channel based on the setting status, and sets the free channel to between a terminal that requires the setting of a channel and an

input apparatus corresponding to this terminal.

13. A multi-channel setting method that is applied to a multi-channel input system for making cordless connection
5 between a plurality of terminals and a plurality of input apparatuses corresponding to these terminals based on a multi-channel system, the multi-channel setting method comprising:

managing a setting status of each channel in the
10 multi-channel input system; and

finding a free channel based on the setting status, and setting the free channel to between a terminal that requires the setting of a channel and an input apparatus corresponding to this terminal.

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14. A computer program containing instructions which when executed on a computer causes the computer to function as:

a management unit which manages a setting status of each channel in a multi-channel input system that makes
20 cordless connection between a plurality of terminals and a plurality of input apparatuses corresponding to these terminals based on a multi-channel system: and

a setting unit which finds a free channel based on the setting status, and sets the free channel to between
25 a terminal that requires the setting of a channel and an

input apparatus corresponding to this terminal.

1. The first of these is the input apparatus, which is a device for receiving information from the user and converting it into a form which can be processed by the computer. This is usually done by a keyboard or a light pen, and the information is then stored in a memory unit. The second of these is the output apparatus, which is a device for converting the information stored in the memory unit into a form which can be understood by the user. This is usually done by a printer or a display screen, and the information is then sent to the user. The third of these is the control apparatus, which is a device for controlling the operation of the computer. This is usually done by a central processing unit (CPU), which is responsible for coordinating the activities of the input and output apparatuses and for executing the instructions stored in the memory unit. The fourth of these is the communication apparatus, which is a device for enabling the computer to communicate with other computers or with a network. This is usually done by a modem or a network interface card, which is responsible for sending and receiving data over a communication channel.